

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 01661 050837Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 CPR-01 /044 W

-----051445 040050 /40

R 041701Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6843

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 1661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GH, BR

SUBJ: GOG DESIRE FOR ASANTEHENE VISIT TO US

1. AT A FEBRUARY 25 RECEPTION GIVEN BY CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG IN HONOR OF VISITING ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU, COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI PULLED ME ASIDE TO MAKE A PITCH FOR A POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE ASANTEHENE, THE MOST NOTABLE AND POWERFUL TRIBAL LEADER IN GHANA. FELLI TOLD ME THAT WHILE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN MADE, THE BRAZILIANS HAD INVITED THE ASANTEHENE TO VISIT BRAZIL AT SOME UNSPECIFIED DATE AND THAT THE GOG HOPED THAT ON THIS RETURN TRIP FROM BRAZIL, THE USG "MIGHT INVITE HIM TO VISIT THE US AS WELL." HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD OF COURSE BE EVEN BETTER IF HE COULD BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

2. HIS PARTING SHOT BEFORE RUSHING OFF WITH THE CEAUSESCU PARTY WAS THAT HE WOULD BE TALKING TO ME AGAIN SOON ABOUT THIS SUBJECT. SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, HE HAS BEEN FULLY OCCUPIED WITH THE CONFERENCES IN LOME AND CAIRO AND HE HAS NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 01661 050837Z

3. COMMENT: I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS NOT THE FIRST APPROACH WE HAVE RECEIVED FOR SUCH A VISIT BY THE ASANTEHENE. FROM OUR STANDPOINT THE MAJOR PROBLEM REMAINS THAT THE ASANTEHENE IS TREATED LOCALLY AS ROYALTY--AND INDEED IS ROYALTY--AND NEVER TRAVELS ANYWHERE, EVEN TO ACCRA, WITHOUT A SIZEABLE ENTOURAGE AND FULL HONORS BEING ACCORDED.

WE THEREFORE PRESUME THAT SUCH A VISIT TO THE US
WOULD BE A NON-STARTER. IF AND WHEN FELLI RAISES
SUBJECT WITH ME AGAIN, I PROPOSE TO ATTEMPTS TO
DISSUADE HIM FROM PURSUING THE MATTER.SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770394/aaaadezt.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3212943
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Subject: GOG DESIRE FOR ASAHTHEHENE VISIT TO US
TAGS: PFOR, GH, BR, US, (ASANTEHENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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